



December 2021



VOLUME LIV

# Sword & Shield

JAMES MADISON MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT NEWSPAPER



# December

13 // Good News

19 // College Basketball Returns

26 // Candy Canes are the Worst

9 // Winter Break  
Activities

4 // Senior Advice  
Column

27 // Best and  
Worst of the  
Holidays

## Happy November, Spartans!

Hey Spartans! Our names are Lydia and Nolan, and we are the Co-Sports Editors for the Sword and Shield. We have loved seeing all of the amazing sports events at Memorial this year and are cheering all Spartan athletes on! We would love to hear your voice, whether for Sports or beyond. If you want to contribute, have a story idea, or more, feel free to reach out to the paper at [memorialwordandshield@gmail.com](mailto:memorialwordandshield@gmail.com)

Have a great end of 2021!



**Lydia Lenz**



**Nolan Sullivan**

STUDENT LIFE	NEWS	ARTS & ENTER.	SPORTS	OPINIONS
4 // Senior Advice Column	9 // China's First Step toward a New Space Race	14 // Nutcracker Performed at Overture Center	20 // College Basketball Returns	25 // Holiday Decorations
5 // 6 Activities to Do Over Winter Break	9 // Lebanon in Crisis	14 // Ed Sheeran Album Review	20 // Bucks' Rocky Start	25 // Christmas Eve v. Christmas Day
5 // Top 10 Christmas Songs	10 // Dave Chapelle Under Fire	15 // Squid Game's Influence on Labor Protests	21 // Weird Winter Sports	26 // Candy Canes are the Worst
6 // Finals / Bridge Week	10 // Genie+ Helps Skip the Lines at Disney	15 // Dune Review	22 // Soccer Update	27 // Best and Worst of the Holidays
6 // DDAF Update	11 // Are Epic's Diversity Initiatives Skin Deep?	16 // Ghostbusters: Afterlife Review	23 // Badger Football Update	
7 // 8 Ways to Get into the Christmas Spirit	11 // AMC Adds Captions to Films	16 // Red: The Re-Recording	23 // Las Vegas Raiders	
7 // Best Three Chocolates	12 // Vaccine Clinics	17 // Princess Switch 3	24 // Figure Skating Update	
8 // Renaming Memorial	12 // Rittenhouse Acquittal	17 // Word Scramble	24 // JMM Sports Update	
	12 // MMSD Wi-Fi Shutdown	18 // Word Search		
	13 // Good News	19 // Coloring Page		



# What's happening **THIS MONTH at JMM?**

- 1
- 2 Latinx Parent Meeting 6:30pm-7:30pm
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 6 No School-Staff Only Day
- 7
- 8 Orchestra & Chorus Concert 7:30pm-9:00pm
- 9
- 10
- 11 ACT Test 8:00am-12:00pm
- 12
- 13
- 14
- 15 Symphonic Band & Wind Ensemble Concert 7:30pm-9:30pm
- 16 Memorial Concert Bands I&II Concert 7:30pm-9:00pm
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20 No school-Winter Break
- 21 No school-Winter Break
- 22 No school-Winter Break
- 23 No school-Winter Break
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas
- 26
- 27 Kwanzaa/Winter Break
- 28 Kwanzaa/Winter Break
- 29 Kwanzaa/Winter Break
- 30 Kwanzaa/Winter Break
- 31 New Years Eve

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# STUDENT LIFE

## SENIOR ADVICE COLUMN: TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF

By: *Amira Pierotti*

These past few months have been rough. Jumping right back into the school year with all of its stressors has made the first semester even worse than usual. While we are taught to keep working until we hit graduation, take time for yourself so you do not reach burnout. Here are some ways to weave self-care into your life.



### 1. Self-care doesn't need to be corporate

While bath bombs and painting nails can be relaxing for some, self-care is much more expansive. From spending time with family to practicing your spirituality or religion to making sure to schedule a therapist appointment, self-care can be whatever you need.

### 2. Build up time for yourself

For most people, self-care isn't a one-and-done thing. It can be more useful to build healthy patterns that can be used every day. Start small, like taking 10 minutes for yourself when you get home or practice setting

boundaries. Over time, you can create a healthier lifestyle that fits your needs rather than the expectations of others.

### 3. Self-care isn't selfish

You deserve to be healthy. Don't work yourself to exhaustion! You are not a machine and no one should treat you as such. Respecting yourself and your needs

do not take away from your worth. You can't pour from an empty cup.

### 4. School isn't worth your well-being

We live in a culture where tests matter more than humans. But you are not defined by your grades.

Your life does not need to revolve around school, and setting healthy boundaries is normal. While you may not want to ignore school altogether, make sure to take time for yourself outside of academics.

### 5. You are worthy of self-respect

You are always deserving of care and attention. There is no such thing as being unworthy of self-care. Nurture yourself so you can flourish. You deserve everyday.

# 6 WINTER ACTIVITIES TO DO DURING WINTER BREAK

By: *Olivia Zhu*

Winter is just around the corner! Whether you love it or hate it, here are some indoor and outdoor activities you can do during Winter Break. While many outdoor activities and gatherings are now approved, be sure to social distance and mask up when indoors.

## 1. Build something out of snow

Although cliché, this activity never gets old! Snow-people, forts, and animals are just a few examples of what you can create! For more complex works, try to section your piece into basic geometrical shapes, such as cubes, rectangular prisms, and spheres. As you start your construction, be sure to pack the snow tightly together--in doing so, the ice crystals will melt and then refreeze, making the structure more stable. You can also get creative with your sculptures! Don't be limited to adding the usual carrot nose, twig arms, and scarf for snowpeople--try using other fruits and vegetables or even office supplies!

## 2. Read a book

If the busy school life has prevented you from enjoying a good book, then there's no better time to start one than Winter Break! Not sure what to read? Some excellent books to read during winter are *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *Beartown*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, and *A Christmas Carol*. If you want to explore poetry, try "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening," "Birches," and "Winter Trees."

## 3. Go sledding or skiing

If you're looking for some thrill in your Winter Break, then speeding down a hill will surely bring a rush of adrenaline! Popular skiing resorts in the Madison area are Cascade Mountain and Tyrol Basin, but places like Elver Park or other local parks are great places to go too. Remember to stay safe as you rush down those slopes!

## 4. Bake holiday cookies

Baking cookies from scratch is a great way to pass the time if you don't want to be out in the cold. Even something as simple as sugar cookies can be great fun,

especially if you're with family! To spice things up, try following a sugar cookie dough base recipe but then coming up with your own cookie shapes and decorations!

## 5. Go on a winter hike

Winter is a beautiful season--the stark outline of trees shrouded by snow against a clear blue sky make a great shot for photos! Winter Break is a great time to take care of your mental health, and you can practice mindfulness while on a winter walk. With songbirds and squirrels darting about, the chilling air sharp in your lungs, and the crunching snow beneath your feet, there are many small things you can pay attention to to keep your mind off school!

## 6. Create winter crafts

Take a trip down memory lane by creating some kindergarten crafts like snow globes, cotton ball figures, or even plain old paper snowflakes! If you really want to get creative, try browsing through Pinterest to find inspiration. Search up specific YouTube tutorials to create something unique, like nine-pointed snowflakes, Disney-themed snow globes, or instructions on how to make owls and penguins out of cotton balls!

# TOP 10 CHRISTMAS SONGS

By: *Ava Kahn and Lauren Morse*

As the holiday season is coming up, you may be looking for the best songs to get you into the Christmas spirit. Here are the top 10 Christmas songs to bring you into a jolly mood.

1. "All I Want for Christmas Is You," by Mariah Carey
2. "Jingle Bell Rock," Bobby Helms
3. "Holly Jolly Christmas," Michael Bublé
4. "Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree," Brenda Lee
5. "Mistletoe," Justin Bieber
6. "Feliz Navidad," Jose Feliciano
7. "Sleigh Ride," The Ronettes
8. "Santa Tell Me," Ariana Grande
9. "It's Beginning to Look a Lot like Christmas," Michael Bublé
10. "Santa Claus is Coming to Town," Michael Bublé

## FINALS / BRIDGE WEEK

*By: Olivia Zhu*

Instead of having a week of finals, Bridge Week will be taking place at the end of the first semester, most likely during the week of 1/17. While full details have not been announced, students can expect to have a week structured like finals--instead of having a full school day every day, each day is dedicated to a certain class hour. During this time, students will have the opportunity to turn in missing assignments, redo summative assessments, and ask teachers for help or to discuss grade improvement. Only students who would like to use this opportunity to improve their grades or are invited by their teachers need to go to Bridge Week; otherwise, it seems that students who don't need to have a week off.



## MEMORIAL'S LITERARY JOURNAL: SUBMISSIONS ARE OPEN!

*By: Olivia Zhu*

Do you want YOUR writing or art featured in Memorial's literary journal, The Memorial Spotlight? Submissions will be open until Friday, December 17th! Any forms of writing, such as short stories, personal narratives, poetry, and plays, and any visual art, such as drawings, paintings, ceramics, metalwork, and photography are welcome! Scan the QR below for submission instructions! This will be Memorial's second year in publishing a literary journal since 2013, so spread the word!! Got questions? Email [jmmlitjournal@gmail.com](mailto:jmmlitjournal@gmail.com)



## DDAF UPDATE

*By: Eliana Sauer*

Are you looking for new ways to get involved at Memorial now that your fall sport is over? Or are you trying to spice things up for the second semester? Well, Memorial Drama, Debate, and Forensics could be the club for you! It's not too late to join our nationally-recognized forensics or debate teams if you want to improve your public speaking or acting skills, and it's never too late to try out crew! Our stage crew is hard at work preparing for our musical, and we would love your help! We are always looking for people to help with lighting, sound, set design, props, and costumes for our Memorial Theater Company productions. No need for any prior experience--we will teach you everything you need to know. Crew meets in the auditorium every Monday and Wednesday from 5:30-8:30 pm, and you can join at any time. For more information about our musical, stage crew, debate, or forensics, stop by one of our weekly meetings in Theater 300 every Tuesday after school. Follow us on Instagram @jmmemorialddaf or join our Google Classroom with the code "whaotks." If you have any questions feel free to message us on Instagram or email either one of our presidents:

Libby: [elpleva@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:elpleva@madison.k12.wi.us)

Eliana: [essauer@madison.k12.wi.us](mailto:essauer@madison.k12.wi.us)

We hope to see you at a DDAF meeting soon!

# 8 WAYS TO GET INTO THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

By: *Nadya Konadu*

As the holidays approach, it may take you a while to get into the Christmas spirit. Here are a variety of activities you can do that will have you singing Christmas carols in no time!

## 1. Decorate your home

Sometimes, all it takes to get into the holiday spirit is a little decoration. Add custom Christmas decorations to your home, like wall signs, doormats, or even kitchen items that really make it feel like Christmas.

## 2. Make hot chocolate

Don't forget the marshmallows, candy canes, and chocolate drizzle! A warm cup of hot chocolate is a great way to get into the holiday spirit. Settle in with a romantic comedy and a thick blanket, and you'll be feeling the holiday spirit in no time!

## 3. Set up the Christmas tree.

Decorating the Christmas tree is an essential part of the holiday season, and it's something many people look forward to. Make the most of it by inviting your close friends and family to come and help decorate for the season. You'll be in the Christmas spirit in no time!

## 4. Bake cookies

Christmas sugar cookies are an essential part of the holiday season. Bake a batch of cookies and decorate them with glitter or icing to get in the Christmas spirit!

## 5. Watch a Christmas movie

The possibilities are endless. From classics to modern works, a Christmas movie is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit. No matter what movie you watch, there's probably another person you hang out with who tries to pretend they don't like Christmas movies but secretly loves them.

## 6. Send a letter to Santa

Sure, this may be an activity more for the kids, but who says you can't write one too? There are many online programs today that allow you to send a short email to Santa to outline your wishes for the holidays.

## 7. Take a drive to see the lights

One of the things that many families do at Christmas is to go see the Christmas lights. Who says this year has to be any different? Fill up the car and go for a drive to look at the different lights.

## 8. Listen to Christmas carols

Christmas music is its own genre. That's what makes it a great way to induce the Christmas spirit! Whether you're baking cookies, decorating the tree, or even lounging around the house, Christmas songs can really get you in the mood. From traditional classics to more modern versions, Christmas tunes are perfect for anyone who has trouble getting into the Christmas spirit during the holidays.

# TOP THREE BEST HOLIDAY CHOCOLATES

By: *Sophia Jiang*

As an avid chocolate lover and a huge fan of the holiday season, I have formulated opinions on the best chocolate to eat during the holidays.

## 1. Ghirardelli's Peppermint Bark

By far the tastiest delicacy of all time, Ghirardelli's Peppermint Bark provides a rewarding combo of candy cane and milk chocolate. The ever-perfect mix of flavors, along with a satisfying, shiny surface, makes it the perfect chocolate to snap apart and share with your loved ones.

## 2. Lindt White Chocolate

Creamy, soft, white chocolate encased by a robust sphere of hard white chocolate: what more could one ask for? The first bite is a delectable paradise, where the interior chocolate melts away almost instantly, while the hard shell is still present. The two layers complement each other flawlessly.

## 3. Ferrero Rocher

A classic, hazelnut chocolate with multiple layers of deliciousness is all you need! Packed with a roasted hazelnut encased in hazelnut cream and a tin wafer shell, along with a chocolate-hazelnut hard chocolate mix on the exterior, Ferrero Rocher is an excellent choice for a holiday chocolate.

# AN INTERVIEW WITH MS. JANSEN: RENAMING MEMORIAL

By: *Anvika Annyapu*

## 1. How does the process work?

A Memorial alum named Mya Berry put forth a formal proposal to the school board. In the proposal, she asks for the school to be renamed because of James Madison's connection to slavery, and how students of color don't feel welcomed in the space. She proceeded to make a suggestion for Vel Phillips, and the school board nominated members to the committee to take proposals for names and send final options to the school board.

## 2. How were names chosen/eliminated?

It was a really long process: names were proposed by the public and each name put forward was put through a rubric. This rubric was the district's requirements for a new name and was used to score each name out of 5. It included things like, are they a local figure or a national figure, are they connected to MMSD, etc. After this, duplicates were removed, names that weren't serious were removed, and this brought the list down to 21 or 22 names. As a committee, we decided that the names with a score of 3 and up would be considered further. This brought it down to about 12 names. Following this, committee members each did a ranked selection of names, and eventually, the total was down to 4 names.

## 3. What do you feel is the most important part of the renaming process?

For me, all decisions were guided by two main things. First, when I heard about the renaming proposal, I wanted to make sure we kept the "Memorial" part. People identify with it and practically speaking, there are going to be major financial issues if we have to worry about rebranding everything. After talking to different coaches around the school, I found that if we have to replace uniforms and cover athletic needs it would be around \$700,000.

I proposed this to the school board as a requirement for whatever name we decide to change to, and it was accepted in September. The second thing that I find really important is remaining true to the original sentiment of what Mya Berry said: the process was started to help students of color feel seen and cared for, so the name we choose should represent that sentiment.

## 4. How is public opinion factored into the decision?

From the beginning, the school board has made notifications to the Madison community about the process, the committee has considered public comments on the school board website, and my comments on the process were on the Cap Times which gave some scope on the overall issue. We kept asking ourselves, did we do things the best way to get all voices involved? Announcements were made, emails were sent to families, and the final piece was the public hearing where individuals could come speak at the meeting or submit comments.

## 5. What is your role in the renaming process?

The chair was there to help facilitate, everyone else was there as community members to help make the decision and to make sure we were hearing from different voices.

## 6. Why do you feel it is important to rename the school?

I hope the most important thing to anyone who works here is that we've created a space where every student that wants to be here feels welcome: if this helps with that, I'm all for it.

## 7. Any more information you'd like to share about the process?

Students who have comments should direct them to the school board now because we sent our final choices of Vel Phillips in, and now it is the school board's decision.



# NEWS

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### TIANGONG: CHINA'S FIRST STEP TOWARD A NEW SPACE RACE

*By: Jonathan Buscher*

On July 17, Chinese astronauts boarded, for the first time, China's new Tiangong space station in orbit, representing a momentous step forward in the nation's aspirations for being a larger player in the growing space economy. This is by no means China's first attempt at a space station, with two previous stations, named Tiangong-1 and Tiangong-2 being successful trial runs of the current station, officially called Tiangong-3. Both stations re-entered Earth's atmosphere after manned and unmanned missions to them for testing, returning respectively in April of 2018 with an uncontrolled descent, and a controlled one in July 2019.

With years of planning starting in the few years before the turn of the century, China has big plans for space exploration using Tiangong. The primary purpose of the space station will be to provide a space for China and other selected nations to provide training opportunities for astronauts, as well as scientific facilities, as China was blocked from accessing the ISS by NASA in 2011. Recently announcing plans with Russia for an International Lunar Research Station, China hopes to begin a series of rover and orbiter rockets to prepare for this proposed 2030 base of operations on the moon. These massive developments promise success and discoveries for many countries, although some, such as Bill Nelson, the NASA administrator for President Biden, view it as a threat. In presenting China as a spacefaring competitor, NASA hopes to gain the financial resources it needs in order to initiate further missions in space. Tiangong represents a jumping off point for China's cosmic projects, and provides excellent incentives for other nations to propel themselves into the future.

### LEBANON IN CRISIS

*By: Hayat Brahmer*

On June 1, 2021, the World Bank announced that the financial and economic crisis happening in Lebanon was "in the top three, most severe crises episodes globally since the mid-nineteenth century." Lebanon's currency has lost over 90% of its value in the last two years and Lebanon has the highest inflation rate in the world at 144.10% (the U.S. is at 6.2%). The U.N. says that three quarters of the people are living below the poverty line. Food prices and fuel shortages are hurting the people most.

On Oct 10th, Lebanon's two main power plants were forced to shut down due to lack of fuel leaving many people with no electricity for 24 hours. Most people wait up to 8 hours in a line to get gasoline. Lines for bread can also be long; many bakeries have closed because there is no fuel to turn the ovens on or the cost of fuel is more than the owner can spend. Meat and fruit are so expensive they are considered luxuries. Hospitals turn off lights and air conditioning to save fuel for operating rooms. Hospitals face staff shortages because fuel shortages make it impossible for staff to get to work. Lebanon was once a leading place for medical care for the Arab world, now it tells "patients to bring their own drugs and turn others away due to lack of supplies, equipment."

But the biggest problem is perceived government inaction. Most people believe the government to be corrupt. Back in October of 2019, thousands staged protests calling for the government to resign. Even the World Bank said: "responses by Lebanon's leadership to these challenges have been highly inadequate.. due to a ... bankrupt economic system, which benefited a few for so long." The government has not met for the last two months.

# NATIONAL NEWS

## DAVE CHAPPELLE UNDER FIRE FOR ANTI-TRANS JOKES

By: Amy Qiao

After his comedy special, *The Closer*, was released on Netflix, Dave Chappelle has been under fire for making several transphobic comments. The last of the series of six specials included jokes that implied that “gender is a fact” and compared homophobic comments with racism, ignoring the challenges that many BIPOC trans people face.

Many Netflix employees have spoken out, requesting it be taken down. Jacklyn Moore, an executive producer for the Netflix series “Dear White People” who is also a trans employee, tweeted she would not work with Netflix again “as long as they continue to put out and profit from blatantly and dangerously transphobic content.” Netflix also fired a staff member for leaking “commercially sensitive information” about the special to a news source. The confidential data hoped to point

out the fact that Netflix paid more for controversial content rather than better-performing content.

Netflix’s co-chief executive Ted Sarandos has held his position to keep Chappelle’s special, arguing, “Distinguishing between commentary and harm is hard, especially with stand-up comedy which exists to push boundaries. Some people find the art of stand-up to be mean-spirited, but our members enjoy it, and it’s an important part of our content offering.”

In response to Sarandos’s comments, trans employees and supporters at Netflix organized a walkout for October 20th. Ashlee Marie Preston, the organizer of the event, stated, “There is this manipulation of algorithmic science that distorts the way that we perceive ourselves and others. And I think that companies like Netflix, Facebook, and Instagram, they play into it, and they monetize on it. I think that this is important to show up today.”

Amidst the backlash, Dave Chappelle has decided to screen the documentary himself, touring at ten different cities throughout November.

## NEW TOOLS TO SKIP LONG WAIT TIMES COME TO WALT DISNEY WORLD

By: Eliana Sauer

When you think of the word genie, what comes to your mind first? Magic? Well, the Walt Disney Company has found a new meaning for “genie” within their theme parks with the introduction of the Genie+ system at Walt Disney World. Genie+ and Lightning Lanes are two of Disney’s newest tools to try and improve guest experience in the park. Introduced in late August, the two work together to replace Fastpass+ and attempt to minimize the time that guests have to spend waiting in lines for their favorite attractions.

Lightning Lane is very similar to the old Fastpass+ system. It gives guests the ability to wait in shorter lines for their favorite attractions. One of the main differences is that guests cannot make their selections ahead of time. Lightning Lane selections must be made the morning of the visit and guests must pay individually for each attraction that they would like to

bypass the line for. Each ride has a different price ranging from \$7 to \$15 per person per reservation. Each rider will need to purchase their own pass, and up to two different Lightning Lane passes can be purchased.

Genie+ also serves to provide less waiting for guests, but is formatted in a different way. Genie+ is \$16 per person per day, and it gives guests the ability to choose different open Lightning Lane times throughout the day. Guests can choose as many times as become available, and can choose new times all day without any additional cost.

Although both of these new devices were designed to improve guest experience, they haven’t been met with all positive feedback. Many diehard Disney fans are upset at the company’s cash grab attempt that they say is making the Disney dream vacation even less attainable for lower income families. The jury may be out on the immediate impacts of Genie+ and Lightning Lane at Walt Disney World, but only time will tell how these new systems really impact the beloved theme park.

## ARE EPIC'S DIVERSITY INITIATIVES ONLY SKIN DEEP?

By: *Elliot Weix*

A recent leak of a recording of Epic Systems president Carl Dvorak reveals a less-than-positive attitude towards activism and inclusion within the company. The company continues to improve and develop progressive measures, but employee complaints and company actions cast a shadow over new training programs.

In the leak, Dvorak said “There’s just a moment where you have to say work is work. Personal life is personal life. You ought to say no to a whole bunch of stuff that’s happening right now because some of its good and interesting and appropriate for your personal endeavors. It’s not part of our endeavor here.”

Since the source of the recording is unknown and no context is provided, the meaning is questionable. Epic released a statement that the conversation in the recording took place in the summer of 2020, as part of a company meeting concerning diversity.

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported that Dvorak sent an email to workgroups for employees of color telling them not to participate in “virtual walk-outs” as part of Black Lives Matter demonstrations. “We are on your side opposing racism and brutality... keep in mind we are a good company,” Dvorak wrote. This statement seems to contradict itself, discouraging efforts to foster change while asking to be viewed as a “good company.”

According to the Wisconsin State Journal, multiple employees at Epic stated that they worked to make Epic’s software and culture more inclusive and accessible—initiatives that went unsupported by the company. Employees have also complained that Epic cut company training programs related to diversity, equity, and inclusion; Epic did not replace these groups immediately.

As of fall of 2021, Epic hosts a number of diversity initiatives and training programs for its employees. Some of these are mandatory, and many others have long wait-lists. These efforts, while not an all-encompassing balm, are a step in the right direction when it comes to addressing workplace racism. One can only hope that Epic Systems actually follows through on its pledge to create a diverse and equitable workspace.

## AMC ADDS OPEN CAPTIONS TO 240 US MOVIE THEATRE LOCATIONS

By: *Alexandra Saffman*

As of late October 2021, AMC announced that it would be adding open captions to select screenings at 240 US locations in an effort to make going to the movies more accessible. Open captions, similar to subtitles, are onscreen captions that narrate dialogue/music. For people with hearing disabilities, people who are learning English, people with ADHD, etc. open captions make movie-going possible and fun. Although AMC had previously offered closed caption services (individual electronic devices that narrated films), they were inconvenient and often broken. Reviews of the new service have been overwhelmingly positive, and AMC hopes that this change is a step forward in making their programming more inclusive.

\*AMC Fitchburg is currently the only AMC theatre



# LOCAL NEWS

## VACCINE CLINICS

By: *Anvika Annyapu*

As the Pfizer vaccine has been approved for ages 5 and up, vaccine clinics are being established by MMSD. With the increase in cases, this has become a greater priority. In a partnership with SSM Health, there will be many vaccine clinics created: Stephens Elementary, Leopold Elementary, Thoreau Elementary West High School, Capital High School, Memorial High School & Jefferson Middle School, LaFollette High School & Senneville Middle School, Stephens Elementary School.

The creation of these vaccine clinics has been a result of cases increasing. Although 75% of Dane County has been vaccinated, cases are on the rise, and ages 8-11 are one of the groups with the highest cases. As a result, MMSD has been looking into areas where vaccines are not as readily available to set up vaccine clinics.

To get a vaccine, parents can schedule an appointment or sign a written consent form.

## MMSD GUEST WI-FI SHUTDOWN

By: *Anvika Annyapu*

Coming back on November 15th, students were surprised to see that the guest WiFi had disappeared. On a normal day of school, the MMSD guest WiFi automatically connects, but on this Monday, that wasn't the case.

The MMSD guest WiFi has been disabled between 7:30am to 3:45pm. A weekly announcement released last week stated that, "the use of guest wireless networks will be for visitors needing to gain access for presentations of professional purposes." Students are being encouraged to use their school-issued chromebooks which automatically connect to the school network. The reason for this has not been publicly confirmed. However, some speculate that it may be due to the guest WiFi connection not being secure. Another speculation is that this shutdown was to limit students' usage of their phone during school hours, as the phones have been distracting students from learning.

Regardless, the impact of the guest WiFi shutting down is yet to be known. There have been mixed responses with some arguing that it has helped class be more productive while others argue that it's more inconvenient to communicate with others.

## RITTENHOUSE RULING: NOT GUILTY

By: *Anvika Annyapu & Jian Wang*

After a contentious ruling by Judge Bruce Schroeder, Kyle Rittenhouse has been acquitted of all charges. The main charges carried into court were first-degree reckless homicide, two counts of first-degree recklessly endangering society, and first-degree intentional homicide.

In August of 2020, Kenosha, WI, was dealing with the aftermath of the Jacob Blake shooting. As people took to the streets to protest, two men were shot by 17-year-old Kyle Rittenhouse. A supporter of law enforcement, Kyle Rittenhouse took a semi-automatic rifle to the protests in Kenosha to "protect property" as protests grew violent. He claims that, "part of my job also is to protect people. If someone is hurt, I'm running into harm's way." Caught on video throughout the night, Rittenhouse is seen patrolling the streets with his rifle in hand. Later, a man pursues him and as Rittenhouse turns to see the commotion, he shoots a man. This man was later identified as Joseph Rosenbaum, who had just been discharged from a hospital in a sentiment of unrest, and allegedly gave chase to Rittenhouse unarmed. Feeling threatened by the man, Rittenhouse shot at him four times and killed him. He proceeded to shoot two more people, claiming self-defense. All of whom he claimed attacked him in some way or another.

# GOOD NEWS

## LOST HIKER DOESN'T ANSWER PHONE CALLS FROM RESCUERS THINKING THEY ARE SPAM

By: *Jonathan Buscher*

An anonymous hiker on trails on Mount Elbert in Colorado was reported missing to Lake County Search and Rescue after not returning to their group after. Following this October 18th report at 8:00 p.m., a team began to search the area, until 3:00 the next morning, and after no discovery of their missing person, the agency began to call the hiker's cell-phone, to no avail. Eventually, at around 9:30 a.m. the rescue team were notified that the hiker had luckily made their way back to their car and from there, their hotel. When questioned about why they didn't answer the repeated calls, the hiker responded that they simply thought they were coming from scammers and telemarketers. One might think that if you were lost, you might want to check your phone more carefully.

## AFTER HUNT FOR SHARK TEETH, BOAT CAPTAIN FINDS HALF-FOOT MEGALODON TOOTH

By: *Jonathan Buscher*

Michael Nastasio, a Floridian boat captain who pilots ships for Black Gold Fossil Charters, discovered a 6.06 foot megalodon tooth not far off the Venetian coast. This amazing find comes after over ten years of searching in this same area in Venice, and represents the largest tooth that Nastasio has found. While in 2020, he did find a 5.87 inch fossilized tooth of the potentially 3.6 million year old shark, the captain claims that the new tooth makes his previous discovery look minuscule. Either way, being part of a history dating back to almost 23 million years is incredible to say the least, and Nastasio claims he will certainly keep this tooth forever.

## MASSIVE ITALIAN PUMPKIN BREAKS WORLD RECORD FOR HEAVIEST PUMPKIN

By: *Jonathan Buscher*

Recently, Italian farmer Stefano Cuturi, who comes from the town of Radda, traveled to a pumpkin festival in Peccioli, called the Campionato della Zuccone pumpkin festival. It was here where he weighed his gigantic pumpkin, and, after placing it on an equally large scale, the gourd weighed in at 2,702 pounds and 13.9 ounces. This broke the previous world record, held by the Belgian, Mathias Willemijns, whose pumpkin weighed 2,624 pounds and 9.3 ounces. So excited following this success, Cuturi claims he lost his voice screaming. Although it may be well past Halloween, this achievement of a pumpkin that weighs over a ton is impressive any time throughout the year.



# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## THE NUTCRACKER TO BE PERFORMED AT OVERTURE CENTER

By: *Olivia Zhu*

It's that time of year, everyone--The Nutcracker will be performed live at Overture Hall this December with new choreography! Featuring Madison Ballet and the Wisconsin Symphony Orchestra, this year will mark the 40th anniversary of Madison Ballet. Performances will take place between 12/17 to 12/26 on Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays, with performance times happening at 1PM, 6PM, and 7PM. The entire program is approximately two hours with a 20-minute intermission. As per the Overture Center's Covid protocols, audience members must wear a mask and show proof of vaccination or a negative Covid test.

The Nutcracker (called Trepak in Russian), a classic winter holiday play composed by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky and choreographed by Marius Petipa and Lev Ivanov, was first performed in December 1982 in St. Petersburg, Russia. Since then, it's been performed internationally and an annual spectacle for places all over the US.

The two-act play follows a young girl named Clara as she befriends a toy nutcracker who comes to life on Christmas Eve--the rest is a suspenseful yet artful story as a final battle awaits at the climax... With memorable and iconic melodies in "March," "Trepak," and "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy," and brilliantly designed costumes, this is a great family-friendly holiday play to watch or rewatch this winter!



## ED SHEERAN ALBUM REVIEW

By: *Amy Qiao*

Ed Sheeran's new album, "=" (pronounced "Equals"), has garnered much support and popularity, debuting at the top of the Billboard charts.

But the album has been no stranger to criticism. After the release of his first single Bad Habits, critics such as Max Williams, author for the University of Southampton's entertainment newspaper, felt that the song was too synth-based and lacked his familiar, acoustic sound. Some even argued that Sheeran stole The Weeknd's aesthetic, especially when considering the music video.

The overall album hopefully addresses some of these concerns by featuring multiple acoustic and orchestral songs more similar to Sheeran's past music. The album opens up with Tides, a vulnerable song about the changes Sheeran has gone through in the past few years, including getting married, having a child, and overcoming substance abuse. The overall album seems to encompass this idea of change, with his musical style switching between songs, featuring techno beats and slower ballads. His album provides a wide array of musical options, giving almost everyone at least one song they can jam out to.

While the album might please his fans wanting more acoustic and orchestral songs, critics still feel that the overall album is a bit underwhelming and unoriginal. When listening to the album, some songs felt very generic, especially for an artist with the ability to create such distinct songs such as Perfect or Shape of You.

In an interview with Apple Music's Zane Lowe, Sheeran explains, "An equal sign represents the end of a question and the start of an answer, it's in the middle of two of them, and I definitely feel like being 30 I'm on either side." As Sheeran embarks on a new musical journey, fans will be along with him to see what types of songs he puts out and what story he hopes to tell with them.

## SQUID GAME'S INFLUENCE ON LABOR PROTESTS

By: *Alexandra Saffman*

In late October 2021, thousands of workers in South Korea marched in demand of better employment protections and higher wages. The protests capitalized on the success of the hit Netflix show, “Squid Game”, which portrays poverty-stricken workers as they compete for an enormous cash prize in children’s games, all at the expense of their lives. Many wore costumes reminiscent of the show’s characters, and the organizers of the rally, the Korean Confederation of Trade Unions (KCTU), even helped produce a promotional Squid Game inspired video calling on the government and labor unions to defend workers.

Squid Game, which came out earlier this fall, is a Korean drama series that satirizes the way in which a capitalist economy pushes those of the lowest socio-economic classes to desperate measures, while the rich profit off of worker exploitation, and has since helped increase the media coverage of protests such as this one. The show was heavily inspired by economic conditions in South Korea following the 2008 economic depression, which caused the lay-off of thousands of employees.

The effects of the Covid-19 pandemic on the Korean economy mirror those of 2008. While South Korea has maintained a relatively low number of Covid cases, its economy has been hard hit. In particular, the labor sector has seen the lowest employment rates in eight years. As a result, the KTCU has called for the right for all workers to form unions, greater job security protections; and for the strengthening of public transportation, medical care, housing, and education.

While South Korean workers are continuing to call for greater government action, Korean President Moon Jae-in has expressed his disregard for the protests, calling them “disappointing” in the wake of new



## DUNE REVIEW: STUNNING VISUALS & STORYTELLING

By: *Felipe Rey*

Since its original release in 1965, fans have been eagerly anticipating a film adaptation of the hit novel *Dune*, written by Frank Herbert. After many attempts at rendering the enormous novel into a movie with a comparable sense of grandiosity, it seems that the mark has finally been struck with Dennis Villeneuve’s take on the book.

As always, Dennis Villeneuve hits a perfect balance of stunning visuals and well-written dialogue with the story of *Dune*, a desert planet with a precious spice called the melange, which allows for space travel and grants supernatural abilities to those who consume it. The film sees the Atreides family arrive to *Dune* (or as it is usually called, Arrakis) to serve as the leaders of the planet. Paul, the son of Duke Leto Atreides, begins to have visions of his future on Arrakis, subsequently considering his place on this world and whether he is truly capable of achieving what many think he can become.

The cinematic quality of *Dune* is something that truly can not be ignored. No expense was spared in assuring that nothing looked cheap or half-done. Though there is a definite use of computer-generated imagery, it rarely feels over the top. The effects are able to enhance the story, but they never overshadow other aspects of the film in their efforts. The score is also magnificent, accentuating many of the scenes without overtaking the moments on screen.

Villeneuve’s writing remains in top shape as he brings life into a vast array of characters, both villainous and friendly without ever stumbling over the unwieldy length of the book or the enormity of its scope.

Due to its immense critical success, a sequel has already been announced for 2023. It is expected to cover the rest of the first volume of the *Dune* series from Frank Herbert, and some expect other sequels and spin-offs if *Dune 2* performs well at the box office. For many fans, *Dune*’s time at the cinema has just started and it will hopefully grow into another behemoth of a franchise the likes of which have rarely been seen.

# GHOSTBUSTERS: AFTERLIFE TRAILER REVIEW

By: *Nadya Konadu*

Ghostbusters: Afterlife follows Callie (Carrie Coon of *The Leftovers*) and her children Trevor (Finn Wolfhard of *Stranger Things*) and Phoebe (Mckenna Grace) as they leave their city life behind and move to a dilapidated farmhouse in the middle of nowhere that Callie's father owned and died in. It turns out that her father was also Egon Spengler, the former ghost hunter originally played by Harold Ramis. The film as a whole is a touching tribute to Ramis, the co-writer and co-star of the original films, who died in 2014. Inside the house, Egon left hundreds of ghost hunting tools, gadgets and props for Phoebe and Trevor to discover and for longtime fans to cheer for. These moments of nostalgia are scattered throughout, and the references are mostly innocuous, although the camera sometimes seems to linger too long on a prop or two from the original film. The only real exception is a stifling moment near the end of the film that sends it skidding toward the nostalgia cliff and spoils the experience a bit.



Unlike other recent sequels that have been delayed, *Afterlife* avoids the worst pitfalls of nostalgia by making the children its main characters. Trevor and Phoebe don't idolize the Ghostbusters - they've barely heard of them, leaving the excitement to the fans in the room, rather than forcing it on the actors on screen.

Perhaps the most commendable part of *Afterlife* is its structure, and how little it resembles the original *Ghostbusters*, even though the films' stories share more than a few similarities. There is no attempt to form a new team of ghostbusters, or to recapture the magic and chemistry of the original stars. Instead, Reitman focuses on building strong characters - something he excelled at in his previous films, like *Up in the Air* and *Juno* - and bringing them into the world of *Ghostbusters*. Rather than a work of pure reinvention, *Afterlife* feels more like an expansion of the universe and boundaries that define what a *Ghostbusters* film can be.

Even with its focus on its new young characters, *Ghostbusters: Afterlife* is still packed with references, inside jokes, and respect for the original films in the series. There are dozens of little moments that will have die-hard *Ghostbusters* fans cheering. *Ghostbusters: Afterlife* hits theaters on November 19th, make sure to check it out.

## RED: THE RE-RECORDING

By: *Mihika Shivakumar*

It is so, so good.

The album *Red* is a classic in the music industry, and Taylor's Version is just another example of how powerful Taylor Swift is. The album, debuting at number one, is a retelling of the classics. *We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together*, *22*, and *I Knew You Were Trouble*, all radio hits of their time, are rerecorded gloriously. She released several songs from the vault, featuring a range of artists, from Ed Sheeran to Phoebe Bridgers. The shining star of her new album, however, has to be *All Too Well*, the ten minute version, specifically. It comes through with a full music video - a short film, it is rightfully titled - starring the lovely Sadie Sink and Dylan O'Brien.

If you haven't watched *All Too Well*, the short film, please do. And then, stream all of *Red* (Taylor's Version.)



## “PRINCESS SWITCH 3: ROMANCING THE STAR” MOVIE TRAILER RE-VIEW

By: *Nadya Konadu*

If you're a fan of The Princess Switch movie series, you won't be surprised to learn that star Vanessa Hudgens is once again playing multiple roles to entertain us in the new installment of the Christmas movies. In The Princess Switch 3: Romancing the Star, Queen Margaret (Hudgens), Princess Stacy (Hudgens again) and their cousin Fiona (of course) team up to solve the mystery of a stolen precious relic.

In the trailer released by Netflix today, we learn that Queen Margaret has decided to host an international Christmas festival, and the most special guest is the Star of Peace, a priceless work of art from the Vatican. Tensions rise when the Star is stolen from a high-security vault, and no leads can be found.

The Princess Switch first aired on Netflix in 2018. A sequel, titled The Princess Switch: Switched Again, was released in time for the 2020 holiday season. Now, the tradition will continue, and hopefully it will continue to the point where we see a world populated exclusively by Hudgens lookalikes.

The Princess Switch 3: Romancing the Star is directed by Mike Rohl, who also directed the previous two films. The screenplay is by Robin Bernheim, who has a long history of writing Christmas features. In addition to Hudgens three times, the cast also includes Remy Hill, Nick Sagar, Sam Palladio and Will Kemp.

Netflix launches The Princess Switch 3: Romancing the Star on November 18. You can stream it on Netflix.



# WANT YOUR VOICE TO BE HEARD?

## JOIN THE SWORD & SHIELD!

*Mondays, during lunch in the Photo Lab (Room 521)!*

## WORD SCRAMBLE

By: *Alexandra Saffman*

1. T R I E W N
2. L A X I N E F A M S
3. A T T C L O O H O C H E
4. T E A K S R E I C
5. R A Y H N S F O W T T S N E M O
6. E P I E R N T E
7. S F T R E T B O I
8. R L D Z A Z B I
9. A R N O D E D W L N
10. R S A A R L M E W Y

Answers: winter, final exams, hot chocolate, ice skater, frosty the snowman, pine tree, frostbite, blizzard, wonderland, warm layers

# WORD SEARCH

By: Nadya Konadu



DECEMBER  
CHRISTMAS  
WINTER  
COLD  
SOLSTICE

CELEBRATE  
HANUKKAH  
PEARL HARBOUR  
GIFTS  
HOLIDAYS

SANTA  
SLEIGH  
RELIGION  
GREETINGS  
PARTY

# COLORING PAGE

By: Amira Pierotti



# SPORTS

## COLLEGE BASKETBALL RETURNS

*By: Nolan Sullivan*

College hoops have returned at last! Just over seven months ago, we saw the Baylor Bears crowned as National Champions following their dominating title game win over Gonzaga, and their quest to repeat history begins now. While they may not be the favorites to do so after losing key pieces like Davion Mitchell and Jared Butler to the NBA Draft, it's safe to say that Scott Drew's team will compete for the Big-12 and look to make another deep run when March Madness rolls around. The runner-up from last year's tournament, Gonzaga, comes into the year with a great chance to avenge their championship loss. The Bulldogs reeled in the fourth best recruiting class in college basketball last year according to 247 Sports, and should receive important contributions from 5-star recruits Chet Holmgren and Hunter Sallis, who headline the impressive class. Mark Few's team will be led by junior forward Drew Timme, who was an imperative piece of the Bulldogs run last year averaging 19 points per game.

In Madison, it is lining up to be a long season ahead for this young group of Badgers under head coach Greg Gard. Led by 5th year senior guard Brad Davison, the final member of a deep 2020 senior class, Wisconsin has gone from having an average player age older than that of the NBA's Chicago Bulls to starting as many as three underclassmen on the floor at tip off. That being said, expectations are high as always for this program, especially for sophomore guard Johnny Davis. Coming off of a World Cup win with the USA Basketball u19 team, Gard hopes that Davis will take a big leap offensively and help facilitate for his teammates. Along with his physical abilities, Davis will look to step up in a leadership role along with rising junior forward Tyler Wahl. In a media presser, Coach Gard conveyed that "Johnny and Tyler have been waiting for this opportunity to really walk into a leadership role and find their voices on the team."



## BUCKS' EARLY WOES

*By: Lydia Lenz & Nolan Sullivan*

Coming off their astounding 2021 NBA Championship run, the first title for Milwaukee in 50 years, the Bucks current season isn't looking nearly as successful as last year's. Sitting below .500 after a few weeks into the season, Milwaukee has not looked like the championship caliber team we all know and love. That being said, it is hard to blame them for their struggles. The injury bug has plagued the Bucks roster to start the year, from Khris Middleton to Eric Bledsoe. Both stars, along with center Brook Lopez, have missed substantial amounts of time in the early-going and have derailed their quest to repeat as champions. While their record hasn't been ideal in their absences, Giannis' performances on the floor have kept the team competitive. Last year's Finals MVP currently holds an average of 26.5 points per game, 11.3 rebounds, and 6 assists, while also contributing defensively with his fair share of blocks and steals. The Bucks have also received contributions from the fan-favorite Bobby Portis, and on the contrary, the controversial free-agent signing and Duke graduate, Grayson Allen. While the season is far from over, a lighter slate of games in their December schedule should propel this healing Bucks team back where they belong in the top of the Eastern Conference standings.

# WEIRD WINTER SPORTS

By: Donghyun Kim

## Shovel Racing

As the name suggests, racers get on their shovels and ride down snowy hills with no other equipment. The sport Originated in the Rocky Mountains of New Mexico during the 70s after a few lift operators didn't feel like bringing the lift down the mountain after a hard day of work. They instead slid down the icy hills on their shovels, and this naturally took the form of today's shovel racing. It quickly rose to popularity as racers modified their shovels with additions like pneumatic brakes and roll cages. Although these modifications contributed to its wild popularity, it also fueled its extreme danger, which led to the Angel Fire resort cutting all shovel races for a few years until they resumed it in 2010. Although it looks fun, most should continue to spectate. But we humans had to take it a step further with the creation of...



## Wok Racing

Wok racing consists of participants who ride down bobsled tracks on modified Chinese woks. After its first launch in Winterberg, Germany in 2013, it became an instant success. Successive events accumulated this winter sport's popularity to the point where an annual wok racing championship is held in Austria and in Germany. Competitions are held for both one-person woksleds and four-person woksleds(constructed by attaching four round-bottomed woks onto a sled frame), and participants can reach speeds as high as 60-70 mph.

## Skibobbing

Check this out! If you like the idea of replacing bicycle wheels with ski blades to build a "ski-bicycle", skibobbing may be your next favorite sport. Essentially using a light-weighted bicycle frame with added ski blades and your own foot skis, skibobbing players get to enjoy a smooth ski ride down the cold, snow-covered hills. Riders utilize the short front ski to steer the ski-bike with a handlebar while finding comfort in a saddle similar to those in everyday bicycles(the land ones). Check out skibobbing if you want to ski-bike your way through this winter!

## Snow Kayaking

A local group of kayakers in Austria in 2002 decided to organize the first "snow kayaking" event. The format of this sport is fairly simple kayakers race their way to a finish line. But there is a twist! These kayakers must go down snow/ice slopes on their kayaks. On top of this challenge, paddles are replaced for poles that are used in regular skiing, transforming snow kayaking into its extreme form. And, thankfully, we can wear helmets!



# SACKED: SOCCER UPDATE

By: Donghyun Kim

Football managers are bound to be fired when their clubs aren't producing great results. Although we are in the middle of the football season, we'll take a look at two notable sackings of football managers from some of the biggest club names in Europe and the new managers that seek to restore the former glory of their respective clubs.

Nuno Espirito Santo filled the spot of Tottenham Hotspur manager at the start of the 2021 Premier League season. Since the 2019 season, Tottenham has struggled to find a permanent manager. After firing Mauricio Pochettino in 2019, the Hotspurs brought up legendary manager José Mourinho, who was dismissed from the club without producing such magic. Under Nuno, the Hotspurs emerged victorious in its first three games, making an excellent start to the season... that sadly didn't last very long. With a record of 5-5 and a goal deficit of -7, Nuno was dismissed from the club, only lasting 10 games as Tottenham's manager. Antonio Conte, former manager of Inter Milan, was signed as Nuno's replacement at the start of November and emerged victorious in his debut at a Europa Conference match. Will Conte be able to produce better results with Tottenham?...

After a series of embarrassing losses in both La Liga and the UEFA Champions League group stage, FC Barcelona dismissed club legend Ronald Koeman after he produced a win percentage of merely 58% in all matches with Barcelona, the lowest percentage by any Barca manager in nearly two decades. Furthermore, Koeman failed to bring home a La Liga title, Spanish Super Cup, or UEFA Champions League title in his 14-month tenure, only winning 1 Copa Del Rey cup for Barca. In the first week of November, Barca signed legendary midfielder Xavi Hernández as the team's new manager. Xavi, who spent 17 years in Barca, securing 8 La Liga and 4 UEFA Champions League titles, has already placed a fine system and strict guidelines regarding the training routines. Players now have to arrive at least 90 minutes before training and also be reviewed over their commitment outside of football so they do not join any activities with an injury risk. Will Xavi be able to rebuild Barcelona and usher in another golden age in football?...

Both Conte and Xavi seek to turn the tides in their respective clubs and create magic within the players. We wish them our best luck to add new life to the beautiful sport of football and create a lasting impact among our world's fans.



## WISCONSIN BADGER FOOTBALL UPDATE

By: *Elfin Wirriyan*

Badger fans rejoice— riding high on a 5-game winning streak, the Badgers extended that streak to 6 during a frigid home game against Northwestern on November 13th, pummeling them 35-7. Although the first quarter yielded no points from either team, 17-year-old running back Braelon Allen rushed for three touchdowns and totalling an impressive 173 yards. Quarterback Graham Mertz threw two touchdown passes to Danny Davis III and Jake Ferguson (Memorial alumnus!), and kicker Collin Larsh made all 5 point-afters. It was a clean game with admirable performances from the whole team.

The week before, the Badgers faced off against Rutgers. However, their 52-3 victory didn't come easily; three players (starting running back Chez Mellusi, starting offensive guard Jack Nelson, and wide receiver Markus Allen) were injured during the game and did not return to the field. Despite these setbacks, the rest of the team pushed back against the Scarlet Knights, with the UW defense preventing Rutgers' offense from being particularly effective. Braelon Allen, Chez Mellusi, and Jackson Acker all rushed a touchdown apiece, while Kendrick Pryor, Danny Davis III, and John Chenal all caught a touchdown apiece. This impressive offensive performance is one that inspired the Badger faithful to put trust in the previously struggling team.

Looking forward, Wisconsin needs to keep their momentum going to stay at the top of the B10 West standings. With Chez Mellusi out for the foreseeable future and Graham Mertz's throwing game still shaky, the Badgers will have to rely on Braelon Allen to step in to fill Mellusi's shoes. Luckily, Allen seems more than up to the task, consistently rushing over 100 yards a game. Our dominating defense duo composed of Leo Chenal and Jack Sanborn certainly doesn't hurt either, and with Nick Herbig's impressive sack count, make our defense one of the best in the nation. With rivalry games ahead against Nebraska and Minnesota to close out their slate of Big 10 games, the Badgers can't sleepwalk their way to the conference championship game in early December. If Mertz can throw a few more completions and Allen carries on the legacy of all the running backs who have come before him, then the Badgers will be set.

## THE DOWNFALL OF THE LAS VEGAS RAIDERS

By: *Neil Roy*

This year's NFL has been unquestionably strange. The Bears look like they might have found a franchise quarterback, the Chiefs have looked pretty awful on both sides of the ball... the only thing that's really been normal this year has been the Lions being at the bottom of the league once again. Out of all the crazy stuff that's happened to franchises throughout the season, all of them pale in comparison to the absolute mess of an organization being ran in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The Raiders started off their season on a pretty good note, leading the AFC West with ease at a record of 3-0. By Week 6, they still were holding their own, leading the division at 4-2. It was at this moment, however, that Las Vegas' season began to crumble. Just a couple of weeks into October, the head coach of the Raiders at the time, Jon Gruden, had some older emails that he sent containing racial and homophobic language revealed to the public. Following this exposure, Gruden immediately resigned from his job as Raiders head coach.

Las Vegas kept trudging on, splitting the next two games that they played. Sitting at a record of 5-3, they were looking good after putting the coaching situation behind them. Then, without warning, misfortune struck the franchise again. 2019 first round draft pick Henry Ruggs, an elusive wide receiver from Alabama, was involved in a car crash that resulted in a woman losing her life, and Ruggs narrowly escaping with his own. The details of the crash make the situation much worse, however, as Ruggs was driving under the influence of alcohol (with a 1.61 BAC, he was over twice the legal limit) and caused the crash himself after driving at a whopping 156 miles per hour down a speedway. Ruggs now faces up to 55 years in prison and was almost immediately cut from the Raiders as a result.

Despite all the misfortune that's befallen the franchise, the Raiders still have a chance at making the playoffs. The AFC West is currently a toss up, especially given the Chiefs' surprising struggles, and if Las Vegas can win some of the interdivisional games on their schedule, their chances of stealing a postseason spot will greatly increase. It's gonna be really interesting to see how the Raiders close out the year.

## FIGURE SKATING UPDATE

By: Amy Qiao

With the 2022 Winter Olympics approaching, figure skaters are proving their technical and artistic skills in back-to-back competitions. First, let's take a look at Skate America and Skate Canada, the first two of six Grand Prix events before the Olympics. Perhaps the most surprising turn of events was Nathan Chen placing third at Skate America. Chen opened his short program with a fall on the quad lutz and, although well-concealed, missed the triple toe of a combination jump, placing him in 4th after the 1st round. In his long program, Chen attempted six quads, opening with a beautiful quad loop, but popped multiple jumps. Chen placed 3rd overall, behind Vincent Zhou (1st place) and Shoma Uno (2nd place).

Vincent Zhou skated away with a well-deserved gold medal for a phenomenal overall performance. His short program opened with a well-executed quad lutz-triple toe combo and boasted several other quads, placing him in 1st after the 1st round. His long program was no different, featuring a virtually flawless performance, giving Zhou an overall score of 295.56.

The Russian figure skater Alexandra Trusova, also known as the "Quad Queen," dominated the ladies' event at Skate America, opening her short program with a breathtaking quad lutz. But due to a foot injury, Trusova changed her free skate to "only one quad." Even with a lower technical score than she's used to, Trusova skated away with the gold medal. At Skate Canada, Chen gave his ultimate redemption performance. Chen scored over 100 points on his short program, landing each of his quads with a positive GOE (Grade of Execution). His long program, featuring four quads, a triple axel, and a footwork sequence that interacts so well with the music, put Chen with an astonishing 307.18 points and a gold-medal win.

The Russian figure skaters dominated the podium again at Skate Canada, this time with Kamila Valieva breaking the record for the highest score in women's singles figure skating. With a free skate boasting three quads, a triple axel, plus artistic skills throughout, Valieva received a well-deserved score of 265.08. Valieva, along with her teammates Alexandra Trusova and Daria Usacheva, will be exciting to watch in the upcoming Grand Prix events.

With the Warsaw Cup and Rostelecom Cup still to come, and the Synchronized Skating season kicking off, make sure to keep up with the Sword & Shield Figure Skating Update!

## JMM SPORTS UPDATE

By: Lydia Lenz

With the days getting shorter and colder in Madison one thing to warm you up may be watching our JMM Winter sports! Let's not forget about our amazing teams that are finishing up their season like girls swimming that successfully participated in state against some other tough competition. Our very own senior Claudia Carson placed 3rd during the 100-yard butterfly with a team record time!

Memorial's basketball teams go all out, make sure to show up to a game and cheer for the green and white. The stacked basketball season gives great chances to watch your classmates show off their skills, but don't miss out on our very own girls gymnastics team.

The first gymnastics meet is going to take place at Memorial December 16th against Janesville Parker so show your support loud and proud! Staying out of the cold is hard to do when you're on the ice like Memorials hockey team this year.

Hockey matches start as early as November 30th and have more coming up throughout December every week during their season. Boys swimming is racing back to the pools starting their speedy season once again.

While boys swimming has been away from the pools to practice may have been a challenge this past year they have not let that stop them from coming back bigger and better. Meets are set to start from December 3rd and continue through the rest of December ready to crush our competition.

Last but not least we have our JMM boys wrestling team. Open mats have been taking place through November and are now ready to work on winning some real matches. First match is going to be December 10th so try to get out there and watch Memorial dominate wrestling as well as these other amazing sports.



# OPINIONS

## HOW EARLY IS TOO EARLY FOR HOLIDAY DECORATIONS?

By: *Jonathan Buscher*

Every year around early to mid-November, you can begin to see holiday decorations for winter festivities spring up across Madison, even before Thanksgiving in late November. This begs the question- is this show of festive spirit a little premature?

The simple answer to this question is yes, as putting up decorations too early can lead to burnout. In psychology, this is explained as the mere exposure effect, in which, when initially exposed to something multiple times, people develop a liking for that thing, such as festive decorations or music. However, over-exposure within a short period of time can cause an inverse effect, building up a dislike. Therefore, when decorations and holiday music are presented too early, such as in November, people tend to become bored and annoyed with them before the general public's holiday season is even over.

Additionally, putting up holiday decorations before Thanksgiving can lead to the delusion of the celebrations of this November holiday. A recent poll of 2,000 adults concluded that 88% of adults feel some form of stress, or are thinking forward to the holiday season even before Thanksgiving arrives. This single-minded focus distracts from the importance of Thanksgiving, and spending time with family, as people are already looking forward to the next season, more notably, Black Friday. While it might not seem like it, holiday decorations and music appear much earlier than you might expect. The aforementioned study also discovered that 43% of Americans believe it is okay to put up holiday decorations before November 1st, and 83% have plans for holiday shopping at this point. Most of this buildup comes from retailers and distributors, with many winter holiday items showing up in stores as early as Halloween. While holiday music, decorations, and ornaments might inspire a sense of festivity in people, starting that

feeling too early can distract from the other holidays, namely Thanksgiving, and to some extent, Halloween. Thus, this can also lead to burnout of this festive spirit.

If you ignore the early start to the holiday season in stores, December 1st is excellent to start celebrating, as it is after Thanksgiving, and gives about a month before your post-holiday burnout. But, if you're going to start early, make sure to keep it a little dialed down around your neighbors before they take out their decorations, play music, get ugly sweaters out, and have a festive mindset around the start of the month.



## WHY CHRISTMAS EVE IS BETTER THAN CHRISTMAS DAY

By: *Nadya Konadu*

The whole Christmas season is a joyful preparation for Christmas Day, but is it really the best part of Christmas? Not at all, as the celebrations of Christmas Eve are far better than the official holiday itself. Christmas Eve offers just the right amount of anticipation to keep you on your toes until bedtime while giving you some of the rewards you deserve for enduring the month-long shopping marathon. It's still an important part of the party without being the party itself. You can do everything you normally do

*cont.*

on Christmas Eve, just like you do on Christmas Day, but you also have a lot more to look forward to. And that's the whole point.

Once the Christmas traditions are over, you're left with a room full of decorations that suddenly look out of place. And you're not in the mood to take them down and put the tree back outside. That's why it's important to take full advantage of your affinity for elf culture on Christmas Eve, because this season will be over before you know it, and you'll have to get back to normal life.

To make sure you celebrate accordingly here's why Christmas Eve is much better than Christmas Day:

### **Everything is still ahead of you**

Everyone knows that the anticipation of something is better than the actual event. Guessing what your gifts are, wrapping what you bought your loved ones, and wondering if dinner will be as delicious as last year - that's true happiness!

### **No stress in the kitchen**

Again, this is all to come. Christmas Eve is all about sitting back and relaxing before the mad rush of Christmas dinner. No one cares on Christmas Eve that the roasted potatoes are scorching hot or that the turkey had to be made an hour ago. They will certainly do it tomorrow.

### **Everyone goes home**

Okay, traffic sucks, but this is the day you can stick on Driving Home for Christmas and have it be real.

### **Gifts? Done!**

Whether you're one of those people who buy and wrap everything on December 1, or you're a last-minute Christmas Eve shopper, by close of business today, you'll have bought all your gifts. You physically can't do more and more importantly, you can't spend more money.



## **CANDY CANES ARE THE WORLD'S WORST CANDY**

*By: Nadya Konadu*

With Christmas coming up, it's time for me to revisit one of our sacred holiday traditions and smother it in a healthy dose of Grinch powder. Yes, it's time that we do away with one of the most worthless goodies ever created—the candy cane.

First of all, mints are NOT candy. They are breath fresheners spiked with sugar, so you would actually want to put them in your mouth. For eleven months out of the year, most of us get our mints at the host stands of our favorite restaurants. Then December rolls around and all of a sudden, we're eating them as canes. CANES?! This is the shape that was deemed "most festive"? Since when is medical equipment a cause for celebration? Does Santa have a limp? Would you eat a candy walker?

Perhaps the worst part of candy canes is that they're incredibly difficult to eat. Just try to do it without getting your face sticky thanks to their shape. Plus, those things are always breaking. I can't understand why it's so difficult to make a structurally sound candy cane. And why can't anyone make a candy cane that you don't have to eat in one sitting? I don't have all the raw data on this, but in my own experiments, candy canes are number one on the list of foods that attract disgusting fuzz after you start eating them. Once you start licking one of those wretched mint hooks, it's just a matter of time before you ingest some terrible flotsam the candy attracts via its evil minty magnetism.

The bottom line is this: candy canes suck. Happy holidays!



# THE BEST AND WORST OF THE HOLIDAYS

## TOP TEN CHRISTMAS MOVIES

By: *Mihika Shivakumar*

### 10. **The Grinch (Jim Carrey)**

If it were up to me, I would very very much think this is a horror movie. This movie? Is terrifying. However, it is beloved amongst fans!

### 9. **The Nightmare Before Christmas**

Perfect. But we should all agree it is a Halloween movie.

### 8. **A Christmas Story**

Not a personal favorite, but one that is loved.

### 7. **Noelle**

Bill Hader and Anna Kendrick- a classic duo!

### 6. **Santa Clause**

One of my earliest memories is watching Santa Clause, so it is a personal favorite.

### 5. **Elf (2003)**

A fun, good, and lovely tale. If you don't love it, it's because you were too young to remember it.

### 4. **The Goblet of Fire**

They have the Yule Ball, therefore it is a Christmas movie, and one of the best.

### 3. **Die Hard**

Die Hard *is* a Christmas movie and one of the best films of the 20th century.

### 2. **Love Actually**

Featuring Hugh Grant, young Newt from The Maze Runner, and that one voiceover about finding love.

### 1. **Home Alone**

The best Christmas movie in every aspect, a classic in every sense.

## 8 WORST HANUKKAH SONGS

By: *Amira Pierotti*

While seemingly everyone has a favorite Christmas song, very few enjoy Hanukkah music. Cringy lyrics and bad melodies are common themes, making every Hanukkah CD from our childhoods unbearable.

### 1. **Maoz Tzur**

This classic has a tune that drones on and on and on and on and on with no point and no end in sight.

### 2. **Sufganiyot**

The chorus will get stuck in your head for a decade (as it has in mine!) and it can only make your day worse.

### 3. **Light One Candle**

Need to learn the story of Hanukkah (sort of)? Can you only learn by listening to bad music? If not, this song is utterly useless.

### 4. **Orrin Hatch's 8 Days of Hanukkah**

Ever wondered what your conspiracy theorist, bigoted uncle would do if he wrote a song as "a gift to the Jewish people?" Well...

### 5. **I Want a Hippopotamus for Hanukkah**

Somehow this song is even worse in a Hanukkah parody.

### 6. **8 Days of Hanukkah**

There are no words.

### 7. **Hanukkah Bamba**

Distrust any album with the words "outrageously hip Jewish kiddie rock" on the cover.

### 8. **Happy Joyous Hanukkah**

Whoever thought accordions and Hanukkah music are paired well together certainly has never listened to this piece.

# KEEP YOUR MONEY SAFE

Keep these important things in mind.



## DON'T GET SCAMMED!

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Never share personal financial or account information. Don't give your account number, user ID, password, PIN or CVV number to anyone. Summit will never ask you for this info in a text, unsolicited phone call, email or on social media. Anyone who does ask is trying to take your money.



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Never cash a check for someone else. This is a really common scam – if someone asks you to cash a check, it's likely bad, but you won't know that right away. The thief will walk away with cash and you'll be responsible for paying back the amount of the check.

**One last thing to think about: If something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.**

Don't be tempted by fast cash, the promise you "won't get caught" or someone asking for a "favor." If you let someone use your account information to write a bad check or make fake purchases, you're the one who will have to pay the money back. And that could be very expensive.

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